

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE REQUESTED FILING OF RULE 1.53(B)  
CONTINUATION PATENT APPLICATION BASED ON  
THE FOLLOWING PENDING PRIOR PATENT APPLICATION:

In re Application of: Gregory E. Sancoff et al.  
Serial No.: 09/368,273  
Filing Date: 08/03/99  
Title: SURGICAL SUTURING INSTRUMENT  
AND METHOD OF USE  
Group Art Unit: 3731  
Examiner: G. Jackson  
Attorney's Docket No.: ONUX-4

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Please amend the application as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

At page 1, line 5, please insert:

-- Reference To Pending Prior Patent Application

This is a continuation of pending prior application Serial No. 09/368,273 filed 08/03/99 by Gregory E. Sancoff, Frederic P. Field and Douglas A. Fog for SURGICAL SUTURING INSTRUMENT AND METHOD OF USE.

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